

Mr. Burleigh Papers

De Wee

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THE DE WEES FAMILY

by

Frances Shelley Wees

MASSACHUSETTS



Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth

January 1, 1900

COMMONWEALTH

MASS.

THE de WEES FAMILY

In Holland in the year 1563, in the town of Dordrecht, a small boy was left an orphan.

A kind family brought him up with their own children, but he did not take their name nor did he keep his own. He was always called, John Peter the orphan, which in Dutch is Jan Pieter de Wees.

This de Wees is the original and the proper spelling of the name which is now used in several forms...Wees, Weese, de Wees, de Weese; these variations are mainly accidental. But there are a few instances in which the name has been changed deliberately to avoid natural confusion with other members of the family and where this has happened it is of course doubly difficult to trace the old Dutch line and blood.

Jan Pieter founded a family which as world families go is comparatively young, and which has never been large. Females seem to outnumber males and the name struggles for survival. It is highly respected in Holland and its

members have spread all over the United States and Canada, but not in great numbers.

In 1688 the first de Wees went to New Amsterdam (now New York City) and the family spread from that area. There were very few white people in America at that time, and almost all were Dutch. Dutch traders had built Fort Orange in 1624 on the territory that is now the City of Albany; the Wees farm (a hundred and fifty years later) was near Albany. Quite a settlement of Dutch people grew up in and around New Amsterdam and Fort Orange; among them were Roosevelts, Vanderbilts, Hogles, and de Weesses. The latter two families were cousins.

These early Dutch settlers are often called Knickerbockers; but this is only a nickname, conferred upon them by Washington Irving, who wrote stories about them and their baggy trousers, called knickerbockers because they were worn by one Herman Janzen Knickerbocker, who came to America in 1674. Perhaps he started the fashion of wearing the full bloomer-like trousers that all the Dutchmen wore. In any case, speaking historically, the de Wees family is Holland Dutch, who settled first in the new world near New York. Later at the time of the Revolution they found themselves dividing into two groups, those who stayed in the rebel colonies, and the two brothers who, with their father,

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were loyal to the British King and came to Canada in 1780.

If the story of the Wees family could be completely set down, we should have a picture of all the early settlement of New York and then of the rest of America, as well as of Upper Canada and finally the West. The members of the family were true pioneers.

Much information appears in the Dutch Records of New York State in regard to the Wees family. Little of that material has been available for this story, which is concerned with the Weeses as United Empire Loyalists and Canadian pioneers.

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Bennington? John de Wees was an ardent loyalist at the time of the Revolution. He farmed near Albany. He seems to have been a friend of Abraham Cuyler, the Mayor of Albany, or was at least known well to Mr. Cuyler and trusted by him. John de Wees's cousin, Captain Hogle, was killed at the battle of Bunker Hill, fighting for the British, and so perhaps all his relatives were suspect. John de Wees later fought with Burgoyne, and was himself taken prisoner at Crown Point. We are almost sure that John de Wees's brother, David, lived with him or near him, and came to Canada too.

In MINUTES OF COMMISSION FOR CONSPIRACY, STATE OF
NEW YORK:

(n.b. to reader; this name was often misspelled in old days, but is never used here unless it actually means our own Wees)

"John Wiess, a prisoner lately taken at Crown Point was by order of General Stark brought before us; and we having examined him ordered that he be again sent to General Stark. August 27, 1778."

And, from the same book:

The name of Arientie Wees appears in a list of young women told to leave the country at once, for treason; decree September 20, 1780; District of Hosick.

From these and other authoritative references, we know of the loyalty to the British held by the Wees family, while they were still in New York.

Later, a Canadian reference:

ENQUIRY INTO LOSSES AND SERVICES IN CONSEQUENCE OF
THEIR LOYALTY:

JOHN WISS; (NEES) late of Albany. Claimant was at Lachine in '83. Is a native of Albany; lived in Albany; Joined the British in '80. Served till the end of the war in Jessup's Corps.

Had some lease lands near Albany. 150 acres, leased for ten years. Had cleared 11 acres. There were buildings.

THE STATE OF NEW YORK
IN SENATE
JANUARY 15, 1891.
REPORT
OF THE
COMMISSIONERS OF THE LAND OFFICE
IN RESPONSE TO A RESOLUTION
PASSED BY THE SENATE
MAY 1, 1890.
ALBANY:
J. B. LEECH, STATE PRINTER.
1891.

ALBANY, N. Y., JANUARY 15, 1891.
SIR:
I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst., and in reply to inform you that the same has been forwarded to the proper authorities for their consideration.

I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
J. B. LEECH,
State Printer.

RECEIVED
JAN 16 1891
STATE OF NEW YORK
LAND OFFICE

Went on in the beginning of the Rebellion. Bought the Improvements. Paid twenty-five pounds York.

Had five cattle, 12 hogs, furniture, carpenter's tools and farming tools, taken by the Rebels because he would not join them.

Produces a receipt for 100 dollars for a fine he paid in '80.

(And, in the margin, "A good man.")

We see so far that John Wees was a good man who farmed near Albany and was loyal to the British cause. Because of his loyalty he was persecuted by the rebels, finally left his home and possessions and joined the British troops. This story will be expanded as we go along.

Further notes from authoritative sources; (i.e. no one reference unless it be land records, archive reports, Haldimand papers, etc. is ever accepted; all stories have been tested one against the others and insofar as is possible the truth set down here.)

Note 1. "JOHN WISS; Late of Albany; had leased land near Albany, was fined \$100 in 1780."

Note 2. "JOHN WEES delivered his claims (for land and re-imbursement of fines, etc.,) to Captain Leake and Captain

Gomeral, who were going to England in 1784. Wees lived on Rensaeller's Manor, joined Burgoyne, served all War."

(n.b. to reader: Like some other loyal Dutchmen, when John Wees had to leave his farm near Albany he took his wife and children to Rensaeller's Manor, probably the big estate of a wealthy Dutchman, for haven; now a town, Renssaeller, across the Hudson river from Albany. He went to Rensaeller soon after the Revolution broke out, left his family there and went from there to fight with Burgoyne; it was while he was fighting with General Burgoyne that he was captured.)

Further in same note: "Wm. Jamson, witness, said he did not know the Wees's farm, but knew the claimant had a good stock before he went to the Manor. He had been a good neighbour."

Note 3. "John Wiss, late of Albany, was at Lachine in '83." (n.b. to reader: Lachine was the home base of the King's Royal Regiment of New York of which Jessup's Corps in which the Wees boys were enlisted was part. The wives and families of the regiment were at Lachine on "subsistence" for four years, from 1780 until 1784, till the war was over and they were settled on the crown grants of land.)

THE HISTORY OF THE
ROYAL SOCIETY OF LONDON
FROM ITS INSTITUTION
TO THE PRESENT TIME
IN TWO VOLUMES
BY
JOHN HENRY DODD, ESQ.
OF THE MIDDLE TEMPLE
IN TWO VOLUMES
LONDON
PRINTED BY J. JOHNSON, ST. PAULS CHURCH-YARD
1790

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"Wees joined the British in '80, served till end of war in Jessup's Corps. Had 150 acres of land, leased for 10 years."

Note 4. "John Weist; muster roll of company no. 2, (Cataraqui) October 7, 1784. John, wife, two sons under and two over ten years; 2 daughters over and one under ten. Received 7½ rations; was on his land, back concessions."

(n.b. to reader: Cataraqui, near what is now Kingston, was the centre point for the new settlers, who had left Lachine in the summer of 1784 and now, in October, were being checked over by officers to see how they were getting along.)

Note 5. "John Weese; settled on lot 89, concession 1, Ameliasburgh."

Some American Wees may get from the old references a detailed picture of the story of the Wees family in New York. But this is enough to prove to us their nationality, their loyalties, and some of their details of living.

We do not know exactly what decided them to give up their loved home and go to Rensselaer's Manor for refuge; there are stories of bands of people, once neighbours and friends but now enemies, creeping up on the houses of those

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There were two
John Wees,
one of Enniskillen,
the other of
Ameliasburgh

THE HISTORY OF THE CITY OF BOSTON
FROM THE FIRST SETTLEMENT TO THE PRESENT TIME

BOOK I. THE FIRST SETTLEMENT
AND THE EARLY HISTORY OF THE CITY
FROM 1630 TO 1680
CHAPTER I. THE FIRST SETTLEMENT
AND THE EARLY HISTORY OF THE CITY
FROM 1630 TO 1680
SECTION I. THE FIRST SETTLEMENT
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FROM 1630 TO 1680

BOOK II. THE SECOND SETTLEMENT
AND THE EARLY HISTORY OF THE CITY
FROM 1680 TO 1730

CHAPTER II. THE SECOND SETTLEMENT
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FROM 1680 TO 1730
SECTION II. THE SECOND SETTLEMENT
AND THE EARLY HISTORY OF THE CITY
FROM 1680 TO 1730
CHAPTER III. THE THIRD SETTLEMENT
AND THE EARLY HISTORY OF THE CITY
FROM 1730 TO 1780

still loyal to the British, breaking windows, setting the houses on fire. We know that at one point an edict went out from the rebels that all those not joining the rebel cause, and particularly the families of soldiers fighting with the British, must leave the country at once, and that all children over twelve must stay and become American.

This law was passed by Congress on July 1, 1780. Our Dutch families could not have contemplated such separation, and when the father, John, (and his cousin, Captain Hogle) had fought with the British there was no question where his loyalties lay. So it may well be imagined that the flight could have been hasty. In the Wees family at one time was a lovely big Dutch Bible, some silver spoons shaped like duck's bills, and a pewter bowl. These may or may not have been burned when a house belonging to John Wees was burned near Albury, Prince Edward County, Ontario, a hundred years or more ago. Few treasures could have been saved during those long years of flying in the night from home, from country, of settling into a new land which was a complete wilderness.

A small bit of history may be given here to explain the Wees alliance with the King's Royal Regiment rather than with some other military unit. The part of the country in which the Wees family lived was home territory for old Sir

William Johnson, who at the end of the French War had been given a baronetcy by the King and who had built Johnson Hall in the Mohawk Valley. (Sir William's second wife was the Indian girl, Molly, daughter of the famous chief Joseph Brant.) His son by his first wife was Sir John Johnson, who succeeded to his father's title and who maintained his loyalties to the British Crown after his father's death (in 1775). When the American Revolution broke out in 1776, Sir John promised to remain pacific and to stay within prescribed limits, but like his father he was hot-blooded and strong, and he did not keep his promise. The rebels came very close to capturing him while he was engaged in various pursuits troublesome to them. He escaped in the woods, and with him he took about 700 followers. Whether the Wees men were among these, I do not know for certain. The band of Johnson's men, enduring great hardships, went to Montreal. There Sir John was authorized to form a regiment, which he did, and which he called THE KING'S ROYAL REGIMENT OF NEW YORK. It was nicknamed the Royal Greens; sometimes the Loyal Greens.

CANNIFF: THE SETTLEMENT OF UPPER CANADA. "In May of 1780 Johnson took 500 men home (through the woods) and successfully removed family plate and papers from places where they had been hidden." (This story, of men of the Wees

(c)

family walking back and seizing what property of their own that they could get, and burning the rest, was the unexpected legend which came to the ears of the writer of this history and started the inquiry.) The Wees story goes on to say that the men walked in to their houses through the snow, set fire to them and then walked out backward in their own footprints. The time of year is wrong if it was Johnson's foray, which was in May, but there may have been more than one similar expedition.

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Perhaps there should be inserted here some remarks about the spelling of the name, (aside from the dropping of the prefix and the addition at times of the final e.) In the beginning, the searching of the records was very confusing, until a proper and experienced historian explained that in the times of which we are writing, incorrect spelling of names was the rule rather than the exception; and that every name which bore a likeness to the one being searched for, particularly in its sound, must be tested to make sure it was not the correct name. The explanation is simple; in times of war, pioneer settlement, enlistment in troops or requests for help in various forms, lines of people moved

Ref. Life of Brant, by Stone, Vol.2, p.72; see also Haldimand Papers, Haldimand to Germaine, July 12, 1780, book 54, p.284. Sir John Johnson's report, Appendix A.

along past a clerk, himself perhaps not too well schooled, and gave their names. He wrote it down as it sounded to him. It was perhaps due to this that on coming to Canada the 'de' was finally dropped from the 'de Wees.' No clerk caught it, or if he did, he was too hurried to record it; in any case it was unnecessary as a means of identification because Wees was enough; there was only one family named Wees. However, in the Haldimand papers, the last word in authenticity, there occur close to twenty mis-spellings of the name: Wiss, Weese, West, Wiest, Weist, Weast, Wurst, Wease, Wiese, Weise, Wuis, Wuist, Waste, and so on. Although there are many points not cleared up in this present story, at no time is there given any spelling of the name which has not been traced back to its beginnings, so that no matter whether we deal with John Wiest or John West (as the name appears actually on the original land-grant, to be changed on the same document to Wees) we are dealing with one man; properly, John de Wees; or, once across the Canadian border, John Wees. It would seem that during settlement his two sons, John and David, became divided in spelling; John junior became at once John Weese, while David kept the proper spelling of Wees. However, as generations went by, more and more members of the family accepted the 'e' on the end, for

varying (and usually accidental) reasons; until now in Canada there is only one very small family which still holds to the Wees without the 'e'. In one branch-family record, all the names appear without the 'e' until one last son is born; grandfather, all his sons, the sons of one of the sons are all Wees; suddenly on the big record, in the last-born son the 'e' appears, and the family explanation is that "Wees" seemed old-fashioned, so the father attached the final 'e'. In a family which due to the press of life has lost the record of its proud and special history, this frequently happens.

It may also be well here, if not for the use of the immediate family then for those who may take up this compilation as a guide in further research of a more important historical nature, to indicate the sources from which this material was drawn. The old County Atlases have been well examined, with an understanding of their grave leaning toward error, but with a need for the clues they offer. A few American records have been used, as heretofore mentioned. The work of various genealogists, themselves in process of setting down the history of their own families (which in many cases are closely intermarried with the Wees family) has been gratefully consulted. The Bureau of Archives, both

of Ontario and of the Federal Government, has been invaded. Land Registry offices have been visited and the old books searched. Tombstones, church records, family documents have been investigated. Above all, and of final importance, are the Haldimand Papers. The Governor General of Canada at the time of the American Revolution was Haldimand; his records held of course all documents pertaining to Government and of the movements of people. The originals were sent to England for safe-keeping about 1850, but before they went they were organized, arranged, and then copied in a large clear handwriting in great books, hundreds of them, which live in the Federal Archives in Ottawa and are available to all students of history. Letters, complaints, requests, orders, death notices, military plans--all are in these books; and although even here, due to the possibility of human error, there are misspellings and various misleading factors, still the books contain the truth as it was at the time it was set down.

Much material on the Wees family was found in the Haldimand papers.

Two of the Wees men belonged to Jessup's Corps of the King's Royal Regiment. One of these two who appears on the muster roll was John junior, old John's son. We do not know

his age. The other, David, may have been senior John's brother; if this is true, we have not been able to establish his family line. David's name does not appear on the muster roll early; he is not mentioned in any documents we have seen as having been in the Corps at Lachine. He was on the roll at the time of disbandment. At that date, David the son was only thirteen years old, having been born in 1771. For a well-grown boy of thirteen that enrollment was perhaps possible. All efforts to disentangle a senior David, with a family of his own, have failed. The line of the son David is clear, of the brother David is shrouded in confusion. We must take it that if a senior David was the one mentioned on the muster roll of 1784, we have lost him in the tangle of interrelationships.

As for the formation of the Corps; Ebenezer Jessup had been Justice of the Peace for the County of Albany, in New York; and, loyal to the British, and apparently close to Sir John Johnson, he had begun his Corps in 1777. It would seem that he was one of the ringleaders of the men who escaped to Canada with Sir John and thus formed the nucleus of the King's Royal Regiment; whether young John Wees, or John Wees senior, was among this group we are not certain,

but it seems probable, since senior John was an escaped prisoner as we know. Jessup was an ambitious man; he had a plan to form a large party to go back and destroy the City of Albany, "which would go far to reduce the half the Province of New York to obedience." The plan was not carried out, but this notion of going home, saving what was possible, plundering and destroying all the rest, seems to have haunted the men of this Regiment.

Ref. Jessup's
Corps, vol.188,
p.189, July 20,
1780.

The Wees family was at Lachine in the late summer of 1780, having reached there bag, baggage, children small and large, pewter bowls, teaspoons, Dutch Bible and all, by what means we can only imagine. At this point of writing it would appear that there was John, the father John de Wees, with his wife Juliana and four children ten or under, and definitely with his son John in the Regiment. Perhaps young John was much older than the other children, and he may have been already married with children. (This seems doubtful.) Had senior John a brother David in the Regiment? American records suggest it, yet we find no mention of a David in the Regiment until the time of disbanding, and then we wonder whether through the custom of the day of allowing very young boys to enroll, young David, John's son, who was in 1784 only

thirteen, was on the muster roll. This also seems doubtful. Yet we have as yet found no record of a second family, of David's family--the brother David, that is. There is a record of an Anna Wuist on subsistence at Lachine, and we know Wuist to have been Wees; but was this Anna simply a mis-spelling of Juliana? And what happened to Arientie? Was she perhaps the wife of young John, and later called Nance (in the records) or did she not come to Canada? She was not senior John's daughter. There are many problems such as this to be solved and it is hoped that future students using the material as here set down can discover the last mystery of the origins, family patterns, and land settlement records.

We have had to proceed here as if there were no brother David; as if the only David we know was John's son. It was truly John's son who married Catherine Rogers, so we do not err in tracing down the line from this couple. The older David has vanished.

On September 3, 1780, the Second Battalion of the King's Royal Regiment of New York was being formed at Lachine. Letters to Haldimand, various lists and documents show that clothing and arms were wanted. On November 30, the officers

had not yet been appointed. On December 14 permission came through to form the men into companies as far as numbers would permit. On January 20 part of McAlpine's corps was added to the Second Battalion...perhaps another group of people escaping from America to Canada.

On the list of officers, non-commissioned officers and men of the 84th Regiment (The Loyal Rangers, Jessup's Corps) at the time of disbandment in 1784, appears the following names:

Wist or Wuist, David, Ernesttown, - Loyal Rangers

Wist or Wuist, John, " - Royal Regiment New York

Wist or Wuist, John jr. " - Loyal Rangers

This is the other John Weest, not the father of David

It would appear that the father, John, was attached to Sir John Johnson (see further story) and that the two boys were of lesser status. None of these three was an officer; they were all enlisted men, but John senior, as will be seen later, was a much-trusted and quite special person.

The Regiment was nicknamed the Loyal Greens because the uniform was green turned up with red. It is doubtful whether the enlisted men had anything at all in the way of uniform, but the officers were quite grand. A uniform worn by Lieut. Jeremiah French of the Second Battalion, K.R.R. was

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as follows: coat of scarlet cloth with blue facings and gold lace; small epaulettes of gold fringe on each shoulder. Its gold buttons had K.R.R.N.Y. stamped on them. The dress waistcoat was scarlet with gilt buttons. The undress waistcoat and breeches were of white cloth, and with this was worn a cocked hat, boots or buckled shoes, and a crimson sash.

Since many men of the King's Royal Regiment, and particularly Jessup's Corps, were from the same part of New York, the Regiment was largely Dutch. Here are some other names of men on the muster roll:

Philip Slingerland	Peter Van de Wort
Andrew Rusk	Tobias Rykeman
John Van Zandt	Ezekial Osterhout
Peter Van Duyck	

We have not much material on the lives of these Dutch people as they lived on subsistence at Lachine. They were of course dependent on army food, whether or not they had managed to bring money with them. The men built houses forty feet long, on a spot that was good for gardens. Apparently they lived a sort of communal life, always waiting for the word of the end of the war when they should be given

grants of land of their own in whatever part of Upper Canada suited the King's pleasure. Undoubtedly most of them hoped, however uselessly, that the British fighting the rebels in America would win and that they could go back to their own homes. As we know, the Wees family had then been in New York almost a hundred years; they must have had many relatives still there, they must have felt homeless and lost indeed in the Canadian army camp, their future uncertain, dependent on the favor of a bad-tempered and obviously misguided king.

A few items are given here in regard to that stay at Lachine.

1. On February 4, 1781, an examination was made of the young women of the families of soldiers at Lachine, to discover which were able to earn their bread by labour. (Apparently there was a problem in the long houses as to who was to do the scrubbing.)

2. "Loyalist women receiving rations are to wash for the non-commissioned officers and men of the volunteers at four coppers a shirt and in proportion for other things."

To get an idea of the items of living which our Dutch forbears possessed, we offer hereby a list found scribbled

in the orderly book of John Valentine, apparently a summary of his own possessions and problems. The item "To Bones taken up from people of the 34th Regiment" is surely a charge for labour which he had done in digging up soldiers and families of the 34th (does he mean 84th?) who had died while at Lachine, that the bones might be taken along with the new settlers into the wilderness and given graves near their loved ones.

Mem. of things left at Mr. Grants at La Chine.

5 barrels
2 caggs
4 boxes
3 firkins
1 vallice with bedding
1 table
3 camp stools
1 box candles
1 watering pott
1 large baskett
6 chares painted brown
3 trunks
4 brushes
2 baggs
1 small trunk

Bought 1 pr. Brown trowsers	1---3---4
to 6 galls rum @ 6/	1--10---0
To half a barrel rum	3---0---0
To part of 2 sheep	0--13---0
To a padlock	0---1---6
To Bones taken up from people of the 34th	
Regiment	3--12---8
A loaf of sugar, 12 pounds, @ 1/6	0--18---0

Things in the Mess

2 candle sticks
 1 dish
 1 churn
 1 silver tables poon
 1 Puter Season
 1 frying pan
 1 mustard pot
 1 iron pot
 1 tin pan with Mrs. Forhan
 3 cups and sausers
 2 silver teaspone
 4 small plaits
 2 large plaits

To washing, 26 May, 1780

5 shirts
 6 Handkehrs
 3 p.d.
 2 towel
 1 n. cap

Necessaries

Shirts--6 new
 3 old

Stocking -- 1pr. silk
 3 pr. thread
 4 pr. worsted

9 neck hdkfs
 4 silk pocket do
 2 pr sheets
 3 pillowcases
 1 quilt, new
 3 blankets
 1 mattress
 2 pillows
 1 Table cloath
 4 towels
 2 flannel westcoats
 2 bleu and white westcoats
 1 patteran do.

THEORY OF THE EARTH

- 1. The Earth is a sphere.
- 2. The Earth is composed of various layers.
- 3. The layers are the crust, the mantle, and the core.
- 4. The crust is the outermost layer.
- 5. The mantle is the layer below the crust.
- 6. The core is the innermost layer.
- 7. The core is divided into the inner core and the outer core.
- 8. The inner core is solid.
- 9. The outer core is liquid.
- 10. The mantle is divided into the upper mantle and the lower mantle.
- 11. The upper mantle is divided into the lithosphere and the asthenosphere.
- 12. The lithosphere is the rigid upper part of the upper mantle.
- 13. The asthenosphere is the hotter, more plastic part of the upper mantle.
- 14. The lower mantle is the part of the mantle below the asthenosphere.
- 15. The lower mantle is divided into the transition zone and the lower mantle proper.
- 16. The transition zone is the part of the lower mantle just above the core-mantle boundary.
- 17. The lower mantle proper is the part of the lower mantle below the transition zone.
- 18. The core-mantle boundary is the boundary between the mantle and the core.
- 19. The core-mantle boundary is located at a depth of about 2,900 km.
- 20. The core-mantle boundary is a region of high temperature and pressure.

THE EARTH'S SURFACE

- 1. The Earth's surface is divided into the land and the water.
- 2. The land is the part of the Earth's surface that is not covered by water.
- 3. The water is the part of the Earth's surface that is covered by water.
- 4. The land is divided into the continents and the islands.
- 5. The continents are the large landmasses.
- 6. The islands are the small landmasses.
- 7. The water is divided into the oceans and the seas.
- 8. The oceans are the large bodies of water.
- 9. The seas are the smaller bodies of water.
- 10. The land is divided into the mountains and the plains.
- 11. The mountains are the high, rugged landmasses.
- 12. The plains are the flat, low-lying landmasses.
- 13. The land is divided into the forests and the deserts.
- 14. The forests are the areas covered by trees.
- 15. The deserts are the arid, dry areas.
- 16. The land is divided into the rivers and the lakes.
- 17. The rivers are the flowing bodies of water.
- 18. The lakes are the standing bodies of water.
- 19. The land is divided into the glaciers and the ice sheets.
- 20. The glaciers are the large, slow-moving masses of ice.
- 21. The ice sheets are the vast, continuous areas of ice.
- 22. The land is divided into the tundra and the steppe.
- 23. The tundra is the flat, open land with low-lying vegetation.
- 24. The steppe is the dry, grassy land.
- 25. The land is divided into the savanna and the scrubland.
- 26. The savanna is the grassy plain with scattered trees.
- 27. The scrubland is the dry, open land with low-lying shrubs.
- 28. The land is divided into the wetlands and the drylands.
- 29. The wetlands are the areas with water-saturated soil.
- 30. The drylands are the arid, dry areas.

2 white do.
 1 pr. white britches
 1 pr. do black
 1 pr. do cordroy
 2 prs nankeen trousers
 1 cotton westcoat
 2 pr. flannel Drawers
 2 pr linen drawers
 1 pr brown overalls
 1 clock
 1 blanket coat
 2 scarlet coats
 1 pr. pistols
 3 trunks
 1 vallice
 1 case

To come back to the Wees family at Lachine:

Record of those on subsistence at Lachine:

John Weist: 5 people, 1 woman, 1 male child over six,
 one female over six, two males under six. (Four children.
 We do not know whether these were the children of young John
 or old John, since we do not know how old young John was.)

Another report gives an Anna Wuist, with four children;
 another John Weast, with four children, but of different
 ages than those of the first list. It must be stressed
 that no such people as Weist, Wuist, or Weast existed; this
 has been proven as mis-spelling of the name Wees. On
 October 6, 1784, LIST OF DISBANDED TROOPS AND LOYALISTS
 SETTLED ON TOWNSHIP # 3, Cataraqui, we find: "JOHN WEAST,

wife, two sons over ten, 1 daughter over ten."

And, on the same list "JOHN WEAST Junior, 1 ration a day." An appended note says that on September 23d, 1784, John Weast Junior had cleared half an acre of his new land.

How did our Wees family acquire this new land and how did they get to it?

Ref. book 168, p.42

"THE SECOND BATTALION K.R.R.N.Y. SETTLED IN TOWNSHIPS 3 AND 4 CATARAQUI, JULY 1781."

The UNITED EMPIRE LOYALIST CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

1784-1884, p.277

1. David Wist (Wuist) soldier, General Haldimand, 1784, Loyal Ranger, A. McL.
2. John Wist (Wuist) do., soldier, R.R.N.Y. General Haldimand 1784 and Captain Myers' letter.
3. John Wist. jr. do. soldier, Loyal Rangers, muster roll p. 1 1786.

These names have all been examined many times and they are definitely "Wees." The transition occurs in the same document, over and over--in letters, land grants, all sorts of papers, the name will change from Wuist to Wees, from West to Weese, from Wiss to Wist to West to Wees.

And now, my dear friend, I have to tell you
that I have just received your letter of the 10th
and I am very glad to hear from you. I hope
you are well and happy. I am well and happy
and I hope you are the same. I am very glad
to hear from you and I hope you are well
and happy.

Yours very truly,
J. M. W. Turner

I have just received your letter of the 10th
and I am very glad to hear from you. I hope
you are well and happy. I am well and happy
and I hope you are the same. I am very glad
to hear from you and I hope you are well
and happy.

Yours very truly,
J. M. W. Turner

There is no doubt at all that David Wees, (Brother or son) John senior and John junior were in the King's Royal Regiment; that they had their families on subsistence at Lachine, were disbanded in 1784 and taken up river to their land at that time.

Ref. b. 162, p.76

"Jessup states that on August 3, 1783, his men felt that the war was over and that they were entitled to be relieved."

Now we begin to find the inevitable anxiety of these people rising up as they contemplated settling in new territory. One officer writing to another speaks of "the doubts and fears of the loyalists that they are to be tenants (not landowners?) and sent far from a market."

There were several requests from men wishing to return to the States...to collect outstanding debts, get their families, see dying fathers, etc. The loyalists had cattle at Saratoga, and they asked to have two men sent to make a road so that the cattle could be driven through the woods. There were of course no cows in that pioneer country, no milk for the children in the dark cold forst. No houses... no paths, no stores, no clothing nor supplies save what they carried with them..what must have been the feelings of the mother, of our mothers Juliana and Arientie and Anna, as

they set out with their little broods up that terrible unknown river, leading nowhere but into the grim wilderness?

(Ref. b.162,
p. 295)

On May 23, 1784 Captain Sherwood arrived at Sorel with 76 souls of Jessup's Corps on the way to Cataraqui, with a small quantity of turnip seed, not enough, and wheat. Did this small company go ahead to plant that seed in the hope of a harvest for those to follow?

The autumn previously, Sir John Johnson had made a journey through the woods from Bay Quinte to Cataraqui, seeking land for his people. On October 20, 1783, Captain Sherwood made a report of the quality of that particular land. It was good land, fertile and rich, but when the first settlers went in it was entirely covered with virgin forest.

On October 9, 1783, Captain Crawford had written to Sir John Johnson that he had purchased all the land from Toniata or Onagara river to a river in the Bay of Quinte, within 8 leagues of the bottom of the Bay, including all the islands, extending from the lake back as far as a man can travel in a day. "The Chiefs claim land at the bottom of the Bay" but he believed it could be got on the same terms as the rest. He expressed the satisfaction of the Missisauga Indians that the whites were coming to live among them.

(There is an inscription on a cairn at the Carrying Place which says "Sir John Johnson here concluded the treaty with the chiefs of the Mississauga Indians by which they ceded to the Crown lands lying from the Bay of Quinte to the Etobicoke river.")

In July 1783 orders were sent from England to make arrangements for granting the Loyalists land. Later in the same year, orders came for a general disbanding of Provincial Corps. The King's Royal Regiment of New York disbanded in the spring of 1784. During that summer the men, with their wives and families, were taken up the St. Lawrence on big flat-bottomed boats, which had to be poled along, to the land which had been reserved for them.

CANNIFF, SETTLEMENT OF UPPER CANADA thinks that most of the surveying of the land was done in the winter, that is, the 200 acre lots had been laid out before the settlers arrived. Just how the lots were given out is not clear. What is clear from the records is that John Wees senior settled on a piece of land which was later discovered to be not his own, but which had been given to the Honorable Richard Cartwright. From much evidence it would seem that John had been on this land for some time when the mistake was discovered;

[The first of the following is a list of the names of the persons who have been named in the following pages.]

The names of the persons who have been named in the following pages are: [list of names]

The names of the persons who have been named in the following pages are: [list of names]

The names of the persons who have been named in the following pages are: [list of names]

The names of the persons who have been named in the following pages are: [list of names]

The names of the persons who have been named in the following pages are: [list of names]

by which time there was no other suitable plot nearby, and he removed with his family (which seems to have been growing all the time) to Ameliasburgh, to Lot 89, concession 1; and all the old histories say that he and his family were the first white settlers in that area, the next being Thomas Dempsey who came two years later.

CANNIFF also says that "the first Battalion, commonly called Jessup's Corps (in which we know David and John Wees Junior were enlisted) settled on the St. Lawrence, in Edwardsburg and Augusta." HERRINGTON, another historian, states "434 members of Jessup's Corps received their location tickets for Ernesttown." This latter seems correct.

"These men had been closely associated with the parent regiment raised by Sir John Johnson. They had, indeed, formed a part of it during that winter of 1776-77 and had seen much service in the frontier warfare during the remainder of the conflict. Many of them had been with Burgoyne and had shared the blame which that ill-fated general attempted to fix upon his American supporters. It was only natural then that Johnson, who must have known their officers personally, should be acting as their agent in the selection of land."

Ref. R. W. Cumberland,
Queen's
University.

No final evidence is forthcoming at the moment as to the exact location of the original Wees land grants; all indications point to Adolphustown. There were many Dutch settlers here, and it would have been natural for the Dutch who had lived near each other in New York to want to stay together. "Adolphustown, though small in area, held a central position between the older and newer settlements and was destined to play a prominent part in the history of early Upper Canada. Many of its citizens came from the prosperous and highly developed counties of the lower Hudson, and these men, with their lengthy records of local institutions and their superior education were fitted to continue the evolution of self-government."

It is obvious that in the placing of the original settlement we have three men to deal with: John Wees senior (and we are almost certain that it was he who went across to Ameliasburgh and whose line is so prominent there); John Wees junior, who had cleared half an acre of land within a short time of taking it, probably in Adolphustown; (he later went to Stirling;) and David Wees, probably also at Adolphustown.

the first thing I did was to go to the
bank and get some money. I had
just a few dollars in my pocket and
I was sure I would need more.
I went to the bank and got a
check for fifty dollars. I was
glad to get it. I had been
telling you about it for a long
time. I was sure you would
be interested in it. I was
glad to tell you about it. I
was sure you would be interested
in it. I was glad to tell you
about it. I was sure you would
be interested in it. I was glad
to tell you about it. I was sure
you would be interested in it.

I was sure you would be interested
in it. I was glad to tell you
about it. I was sure you would
be interested in it. I was glad
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be interested in it. I was glad
to tell you about it. I was sure
you would be interested in it.

We do not know exactly how or where the lives divided. Births, deaths, marriages, movements of families were not set down in books for a long time. Church records did not begin for a decade or more after first settlement, and for a long time were sporadic. Someone, sometime, will untangle the small mystery yet remaining as to the exact ages, placing of land, and the problem of which children in the large families belonged to which man. Meanwhile we deal with a family of whose origins we are sure and of whose early history we know much.

We can now give an outline of the events of the actual settlement, drawn from the Haldimand papers.

On May 27, 1784, Sir John Johnson wrote a letter to Governor-General Haldimand about the method of drawing lots; he says that he had not yet a complete descriptive return of the Second Battalion.

"When we realize that at the end of May the land upon which these people were to settle had not been allotted; that it was virgin forest; that they had only a few months to build houses, plant gardens, get prepared for winter, we can be a little impatient.)

A few days later, Sir John writes "The distribution of benefits most certainly seldom gives general content unless very impartially bestowed."

On June 3: "As soon as the people are provided with boats, tents, etc. I shall proceed to the spot. The people are moving up as fast as they can, but have been delayed by want of boats, tents, and so forth."

"Indeed, the benefits to be received on this occasion in whatever manner bestowed will be but trifling in comparison to what may have been sacrificed for them."

(He was having trouble getting things done for his people; the King, it would appear, was not lavish with his favours.)

On July 22: Rations had been sent again. "This is the only step that can prevent the ruin of the infant settlements. The people will now work cheerfully and exert themselves in the hope of soon relieving the nation from the burden they are become by endeavoring to put themselves above the reach of want."

On July 22: "Townships have been assigned and the mode of drawing lots directed."

Sir John also reported that tools for the people had probably arrived; he passed them (on his way down river) at Oswegatchie. There were axes enough for double the number of men but hoes were scarce. Turnip seed was scarce, so he had given it out--four drinking glasses of turnip seed were given to be divided among the men of the first battalion. It was too late to plant wheat; but each man was given three bushels.

(We know that John Wees had at least eight people in his family, and was being given seven rations. His three bushels of wheat had to make the flour to carry the whole family over the winter unless more arrived!)

On August 19: Many people are still unsettled.

On August 6, 1784, a report was made about conditions in the new settlement. Food was seriously needed. The old people particularly were suffering. The report says "It was found that proper nourishment was more effectual than medicine."

Haldimand, b.162
p. 343

b. 162, p.370

On September 20, 1784: A Macdonnell reporting to Sir John: "The British disbanded troops on the west side of the Bay of Quinte will in cold weather be reduced to the greatest distress for want of cloathing. Some of them have not even a blanket to cover them, from heavy rain and pinching frost, for to hold out the damp of the ground they lie upon."

On October 16, 1784: "Part of the Loyalists have huts ready, and others, by being very industrious, may have them built so as to shelter them from the severity of the weather. Others, from the late date at which their lands were surveyed, cannot possibly build in time. There is not a sufficient supply of provisions for the settlers in the vicinity of Cataraqui, Bay of Quinte, and they are much distressed for want of cloathing."

At this time there were four hundred and seventy-five people of the disbanded troops settled in Township number 3. There were two hundred and ninety-six men, eighty-five women, and all the rest were children.

The record says JOHN WEAST; wife; 2 sons over ten, 1 daughter over ten; five rations a day.

and JOHN WEAST, junior, 1 ration a day; half acre of his land cleared by September 23, 1784.

Obviously the record is far from correct at this point. The numbers of children keep changing.

To go back a few months in the official record, and get a picture of the worries of these pioneers about their coming food: "Captain Sherwood has arrived at Sorel with 76 souls of Jessup's Corps on their way to Cataraqui. He reports a small quantity of seed brought. The loyalists have cattle at Saratoga, which they wish to drive through the woods to the new settlement...and asks that two men be sent to make a road."

The full text of the letter from Archibald Macdonell to Sir John Johnson on September 20, 1784, is as follows:

Sir:

The British disbanded troops settled on the West side of the Bay of Kenty will in cold weather be reduced to

the greatest distress for want of cloathing. Some of them have not even a blanket to cover them from heavy rains and pinching frost, or to hold out the damp of the ground they lie upon. Another object of great consequence to them is the want of a blacksmith to take and repair their axes, hoes, and agricultural implements. They are at a great distance from any immediate relief, some of them 30 miles by land, exclusive of 3 miles by water.

As I am settled among them, and you were pleased to direct me to be their representative, I am sir,

Your obedient servant,

Arch. Macdonell, Lieut. late 84th Reg.

From Stephen de Lancey to Governor General Haldimand,

Oct. 16, 1784.

"There is not nigh a sufficient quantity of provision at Cataraqui for the settlers in that Vicinity and Bay Quinte, and from what I can learn unless some other means are immediately taken to expedite the transporting of it to those places there will not be by any means a sufficiency to support them during the time the navigation is shutt up."

These short reports will indicate the living conditions which the Wees family, along with all the others of the dis-

banded troops, had to meet during that first settlement. The trip up river had been long and very tiring. It usually took one of the big batteaux about twelve days to get from Montreal to Kingston. On some reaches of the river two miles an hour was the maximum speed, and twelve miles a day was all the hardest boatman could endure.

There is no intention here to write the history of the early pioneers but simply to indicate with accurate references the lives that the members of the Wees family first in Canada had to live.

John Wees died in the summer of 1797, sometime between the 22nd of June and the 13th of November. On the first date he was applying for land, on the second date his widow, Juliana, was the claimant.

His original land grant, the parchment, may somewhere be in existence. Certainly that of his son Henry, who remained on the original plot, lot 89 of Ameliasburgh, is in the hands of his descendants. It is a large oblong of sheepskin, not entirely legible. It says, in part:

"GEORGE THE THIRD, BY THE GRACE OF GOD OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN KING, DEFENDER OF THE FAITH, Etc.....

"Know ye that we of our special grace, certain knowledge, and...(illegible)...have given, granted, and by these presents

...and it is not only the fact that the
 ...but also the fact that the ...
 ...the ...
 ...the ...

...the ...
 ...the ...
 ...the ...

...the ...
 ...the ...
 ...the ...

...the ...
 ...the ...
 ...the ...

...the ...
 ...the ...
 ...the ...

do give and grant unto Henry Wees of the Township of Ameliasburgh, in the County of Prince Edward in the Midland District, yeoman, son of John Wees, a United Empire Loyalist....

Lot 89-90, Ameliasburgh; 298 acres, Township of Percy,
Northumberland.

Peter Hunter, Esq. Our Lieutenant, Governor of our said Province and Lieutenant General commanding our Forces in the Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada.

Dated 17th May, 1802.

Entered with Authority July 20, 1802.

Signed: Peter Russell.

Any and all members of the Wees family who read this will have to figure out their own relationship to this Henry. He was a younger son of John the original; brother to John junior, nephew to David.

The attempt to disentangle the three families---that of John senior, John junior, and David, in their earliest settlement, has been very difficult. Somewhere, possibly in Albany, and possibly at Lachine, there may be a record of births and deaths and parentage, but so far it has not been uncovered. Sufficient time has not been available for this happy task.

It would appear that John senior was a man of middle age when he came to Canada in 1780. He died in 1797; he was a vigorous man and able, during his time with Sir John Johnson, as we will later show. As has been mentioned, records of marriages and births and deaths after settlement were highly irregular, so it is very hard to fix ages. The first ministers in the country appeared (except for the Rev. Stuart at Cataraqui) about 1794. It seems correct that Catherine Wees, John's daughter, was the first white girl married on the Carrying Place (at her father's home) but we may as well accept the fact that she may have been married in fact if not in registration for some years previously. One of the first ministers in the country, the Elder Winer, did not appear until 1794. It so happened that by the time the Church in any form came into that early country there were many ceremonies long overdue--marriages and baptisms and even death services to be read, over bodies already crumbled away.

Through claims for lands, due to them as Loyalists, and carefully recorded in Government offices, we find many clues as to the names of children of the earliest settlers.

On November 13, 1797, at the Council Chamber at York:
before the Honorable Judge Elmsley, Hon. John McGill, Hon. David William Smith, speaker of the Lower House, the following

came to apply for land:

p.72

(From the Ontario Archives, 1931 report)

HENRY AND FRANCIS WEES: Praying for lands as loyalists; recommended for 200 acres each.

JULIANA WEES: widow of John WEES: Praying for lands in right of her late husband as a military claimant. Recommended for 250 acres of family lands, if not granted before to her late husband.

p.167

(From the Ontario Archives, 1930 report)

JOHN WEES: Praying for lands for himself and family. Recommended for 600 acres to cover all claims including family claims; this on June 22, 1794. (That is, at this date John Wees was alive; on the date above, November of the same year, he was dead.)

LUCY BURLEY; alias Wees: (This usually means she was born a ^{FREEMAN} Wees and married to a Burley.)

JOHN WEES, JUNIOR

CATHERINE ROGERS; alias Wees: (This is a puzzle; the Catherine Rogers elsewhere in this history is the wife of David Wees, not born a Wees. This girl was born a Wees; but Catherine Wees, John's daughter, the first bride on the Carr ing Place, married David Sager. So--was this girl young John's daughter?)

DAVID WEEST: Praying for lands as a Loyalist.

DAVID WEES: Praying for lands as a Loyalist; same day, same court. So obviously there were two David Weeses, very likely uncle and nephew.

All these people were asking for lands as Loyalists, for 200 acres each; and eventually they got them.

Although there is a tangle of relationships, as indicated, the basic existence of the family is thoroughly established. Our last excerpt from the Haldimand papers taken at time of settlement, is a report from an officer examining the newly settled people:

Book 168, p.71

RETURN OF DISBANDED TROOPS SETTLED IN TOWNSHIP #13

CATARAQUI, MUSTERED THIS 6 OCTOBER 1784:

Second Batt. K.R.R.N.Y. Jno. Weast (man away at Cataraqui
for Provisions)

" " " Jno. Weast Jun.

It now remains to give the most valuable story of all, the story of John Wees's work as a soldier.

The discovery of the story in the great mass of the Haldimand papers is almost as exciting as it might be to find a diamond in a swamp on a dark night.

Haldimand Papers
b. 165, p.32

In skimming through the pages of the big books, page after page, not even sure that the Wees name would appear at all, the writer came upon the following:

"Correspondence with Colonel Cuyler and others, Feb.4: Abraham Cuyler to Captain Matthews--copies of letters, open and secret, sent by JOHN WIES, on secret service to Albany." (This summary appears in volume 1888 of the Student's reference, p. 737.)

(The reader may well imagine with what eagerness this writer followed up the clue, knowing by this time that John Wies, no matter how they spelled him, was certainly old John Wees himself, the original.)

The remainder of the index goes as follows:

Feb. 6: Messenger on secret service.

Feb. 13: The detention of the messenger sent on secret service.

Feb. 17: Captain Matthews to A. Cuyler; has written respecting the detention of secret service messenger. Is writing with milk safe?

Mar. 10: Matthews to Cuyler; messenger (Wees) has left the block house.

Mar. 13: Cuyler to Matthews; when may his secret service messenger, Wees, return?

Handwritten text, likely a letter or document, written in cursive script. The text is arranged in several paragraphs, with some lines indented. The handwriting is somewhat faded and difficult to decipher, but appears to be a formal or semi-formal communication. There are some markings that look like initials or small diagrams interspersed within the text.

Mar. 17: Cuyler to Matthews; The messenger, Wees, has returned. His news is the report of the granting of Independence.

The granting of Independence! The news carried by John Wees!

The writer lost no time in turning to the documents indexed in the above short form. The first one was a letter to one James Brekenridge, of Bennington, Vermont. The original letter is of course in England, but the description says that the original was written in ink lines far apart, interlined with milk. This was the secret way of writing in those times. When paper so written was held to the fire, the milk turned brown and could be read. The letter that follows was the ink letter; between its lines were written the milk letter which comes after it.

The ink letter: a safe, harmless document:

Montreal, Feb. 4, 1783.

Sir:

I embrace this opportunity to ask how you and the good family are, and to convince you that I have not forgot you in the long time I have not had the pleasure of seeing you; be assured it will afford me pleasure to hear of your welfare,

and I shall expect you will be so civil as to favor me with a line the first opportunity, if ever I can be of service to you, shall be happy to be at your command.

I am, sir, your Ac.

A. Cuyler.

And now for the milk letter, written between the lines of the above:

I send the bearer to you in confidence (n.b. to reader... the bearer was John Wees) in hopes you will assist him to get to Albany or Schenectady with a slay or other most convenient speed, and that he may come back to you the same way, after which forward him on his way to Otter Creek, or more forward frontier; friend, you may rely on his secrecy and honesty, and as such on his return please to give me every information relative to the news from Europe, New York, the Congress and all other State proceedings, the public opinion and your particular opinion on the times, send the last New York and New England prints, and what may be particular, and if any other secret news write with new milk as this is wrote--your sons are well and all other friends. I am in confidence,

your friend, A.C.

(Nearly the substance of the above was wrote in the same

way with milk to a friend at Albany on the adjoining leaf of the pass, of which pass is a copy herunto annexed, and another in same substance was wrote on a dirty piece of paper to my friend at Schenectady. A.C.)

One cannot help thinking that Mr. Cuyler liked playing cops and robbers, going to all the above trouble to write a message in milk which might well have been trusted to John Wees's ears and lips. In reading through the mass of material available one discovers Mr. Cuyler to have been quite a person, but that is another story.

COPY OF JOHN WEES'S PASSPORT

The Bearer, John Wiest, a prisoner of war, is permitted on parole to go to the Colonys and to return again when called for, if not exchanged.

...Montreal, 3d. Feb.
1783.

A. Cuyler, Acting Commissary Prisoners.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

By way of expediting the business effectually and to remove suspicion of those employed in the Secret Service I wrote the following letter to Mr. Marsh at St. John's and enjoined secrecy on the bearer, that he should on no pretence act any other character than that of a prisoner till he got past our outposts.

The first condition is that the person who is to be
 admitted must be a native-born American citizen. The second
 condition is that the person must be a member of one of
 the following organizations:

(1) The American Legion

(2) The United States Marine Corps

(3) The United States Army

(4) The United States Navy

It is also necessary that the person must be a member of one of
 the following organizations:

(1) The American Legion

(2) The United States Marine Corps

It is also necessary that the person must be a member of one of
 the following organizations:

(1) The American Legion

(2) The United States Marine Corps

(3) The United States Army

(4) The United States Navy

It is also necessary that the person must be a member of one of
 the following organizations:

(1) The American Legion

(2) The United States Marine Corps

(3) The United States Army

(4) The United States Navy

Copy of letter to William Marsh, Esq.

Montreal, 4th Feb. 1783

Sir:

Having understood a flag of truce for Vermont will soon depart from Dutchman's Point, by consent of the Commander in Chief, I have permitted the bearer, a prisoner of war, to return on parole to the Colonys, and as he may find it difficult to get forward, I beg you'll be so good as to send him in a sloop from St. John's to the Point, the expense of which I shall defray, altho' it has been his misfortune to be made a prisoner, yet I believe him to be a well-disposed person toward all mankind.

I am, sir, your A.C.

Endorsed.

Copy of papers relative to John Wies, sent on secret Service.

Montreal, 6th Feb. 1783

Sir:

I am favored with yours of the 3d inst. and His Excellency's directions respecting Mr. Platt will be punctually observed when in quarters at this place of its neighborhood; I hope His Excellency's orders respecting the diminution of Rations etc. may be sent in before the next Victualling Day the 24th March, agreeable to what you requested at my departure from Quebec.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

CHICAGO, ILL., U.S.A.

1971

Dear Sir,
I have the pleasure to inform you that your application for a position of Lecturer in the Department of Biology has been received and is being considered. The Department is currently seeking individuals with a strong background in molecular biology and a commitment to teaching and research. Your qualifications, as outlined in your letter and curriculum vitae, are impressive and we are interested in learning more about your work and interests. We would like to schedule an interview with you at a convenient time. Please let me know your availability for the next few weeks. Sincerely,
Dr. J. D. Smith

Dr. J. D. Smith

Department of Biology

Chicago, Ill.

Enclosed for you are two copies of the Department's brochure.

Very truly yours,

1971

I am pleased to hear that you are interested in the position of Lecturer in the Department of Biology. The Department is currently seeking individuals with a strong background in molecular biology and a commitment to teaching and research. Your qualifications, as outlined in your letter and curriculum vitae, are impressive and we are interested in learning more about your work and interests. We would like to schedule an interview with you at a convenient time. Please let me know your availability for the next few weeks. Sincerely,
Dr. J. D. Smith

I have two days ago despatched a trusty person by the name of John Wees, to my friends at Albany, Schenectady, and I flatter myself he will return about the end of this month and bring all the news stirring in the Colonys and what he shall bring may be relied on; in order to remove suspicion at your outposts, in case he should be questioned, I have furnished him with a passport as if he was a Prisoner of War, indulged to return to the Colonys on parole, and as he will not be known I hope it may have the desired effect.

I have the honor to be, sir,

A. Cuyler.

Copy of a letter received from Mr. Marsh.

St. Johns, 9th Feb. 1783

Sir:

On my return to St. Johns I received a letter from Captain Sherwood, informing me that if the prisoner which I had forwarded should not be on the list of prisoners which he then expected from the Commander in Chief, he would not permit him to pass, and as Dr. Smyth was then going to the Loyal Blockhouse, I spoke to him to forward the prisoner, which he appeared willing to do, he inquired about the name but I have forgot it...it's something doubtful to me whether the Prisoner will get a pass-

port, if he should not, I shall expect your further directions on the subject, for the bearere, which will be most cheerfully complied with by, sir,

Your A.C. Wm. Marsh.

(To which the following answer; a lovely picture of our old friend A. Cuyler and his short temper.)

Sir:

Rec'd yours of the 9th inst. this morning wherein you mention that Cap't Sherwood says that unless the man I permitted to return to the Colonys should be included in the list of prisoners he expected from the Commander in Chief, he would not be suffered to proceed, and that you was doubtful whether he would get a passport at all, which to me appears a little strange, as you and him must both be convinced that he has the necessary passports from me as Comm. of prisoners, and I am sorry that either of you should doubt my authority or antigrity, and I am indeed surprised that Captain Sherwood would detain a prisoner with my passports without writing me the cause of it which prevents me to write him on the subject, and all I can say to you is that never do anything in a official line without authority from the Comman. in Chief, and if Capt. Sherwood doubts he may answer the consequences.

I have further to observe to you, that I don't know of any other prisoners intended to be sent to the Colonys, but the one with my passport, if there was I should suppose I would be acquainted as Comm. of Prisoners, you have my permission to communicate this letter to Captain Sherwood, and should he afterward detain the Prisoner I desire he may in such case be sent back to me at Montreal, but should he proceed he might be Victualled for a week, as the store provided for his journey must be exhausted by his long detention.

I am, Sir, your A.C., A. Cuyler.

(Mr. Cuyler had been Mayor of the important City of Albany; it must have been hard to take orders or accept what he thought was insubordination.)

To Captain Matthews:

I mentioned to you in my last that I had despatched a proper person to gain useful intelligence, and the means I had made use of to prevent suspicion at our outposts, but by letter I have since received it appears that Captain Sherwood had detained the man, and it is uncertain yet that he is permitted to proceed. I herewith enclose for your perusal copies of papers relative to this affair and I hope the precaution I have taken to prevent discovery may meet your approbation; it's a little mortifying to be frustrated in a design I had hopes would have given

satisfaction and might have prepared for the most authentic intelligence. hereafter, in case a flag had been sent as I proposed...The reason I did not send the man across the woods was to gain time as it would have taken near double the time of the route I sent him; which he expected to have performed in about twenty days including all delays when down the country. I have the honor to be, Sir, your A.C. A. Cuyler.

(The above letter was to Captain Matthews, Secretary to His Excellency the Commander in Chief.)

Matthews, replying to Cuyler:

Sir:

The last post brought your favour of the 13th instant covering copies of letters upon the subject of Wees's mission and detention...It is unlucky you did not write five lines to Captain Sherwood as you proposed the morning we conversed upon the subject...a passport would have carried him clear to the Blockhouse having a despatch to Captain Sherwood...but no person is suffered to leave the Province without a particular order, a passport from the Commander in Chief, therefore Captain Sherwood could not avoid stopping him. I wrote to him by this post, so that if Wees is not already gone on in consequence of your letter to Mr. Marsh, he will be despatched the moment my letter arrives, and it is to be hoped the Delay will not make

any especial difference...indeed it may have a good effect by some news arriving in the meantime at Albany which he may have come away without.

Have you not apprehensions that writing in milk is too well known to trust to? I never receive a prisoner's letter or old piece of paper that I do not put it to a fiery trial.

I am, sir....

17th Feb. 1783

(Cuyler writing to Matthews, about one John Gibson. No bearing on the Wees family but more insight into Cuyler and the times.)

At the last issuing of Provisions to the Loyalists at St. Johns I ordered John Gibson and family to be struck off, as persons unworthy to partake of the Royal Bounty. Knowing him personally to have been guilty of persecuting the Loyalists down the country, he in person had the assurance to bring a mob to my house in Albany in January '76 when they consumed upwards of \$250 worth of my best liquors which he took by force..I mention this circumstance as it is not unlikely application may be made to be restored...I don't think he is a person that ought to be trusted at the outposts. Cuyler.

Headquarters, Quebec, March 10, 1783: To Cuyler

You may in a short time expect the return of your messenger as he left the blockhouse some time ago.

Matthews.

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Cuyler to Matthews

As I don't exactly know what time the messenger Wees left the Blockhouse I can't ascertain the time of his return but I shall hope it will not much exceed twenty days, I had directed him on his return to endeavour to avoid the Block House, which circle may delay a few days...please inform me whether His Excellency will receive Wees at Quebec or if it will be sufficient to transmit his report by the very first post after his arrival.

Cuyler.

Montreal, March 17, 1783.

Cuyler to Matthews

Sir:

I beg leave to acquaint you for His Excellency's information that the messenger Wees arrived here yesterday from Bennington, a place about forty miles from Albany, which he left on the 8th instant, and brought the Albany paper of the 24th and Massachusetts of 25th ultimo, and a printed remonstrance of Vermont, all of which I inclose for His Excellency's perusal and information. Wees says that after being detained at the Blockhouse 17 days he proceeded without interruption to Bennington, where Mr. Brekenridge advised him to remain as the Hudson River had opened and it might be dangerous to pass undiscovered, he therefore sent my note by a trusty person (which I well know) to my friend at Schenectady, and the messenger returned with a note

THE FIRST PART

I have been thinking of you very much lately, and wondering how you are getting on. I hope you are well and happy. I have been very busy lately, but I have managed to find some time to write to you. I have been thinking of you very much lately, and wondering how you are getting on. I hope you are well and happy. I have been very busy lately, but I have managed to find some time to write to you.

THE SECOND PART

I have been thinking of you very much lately, and wondering how you are getting on. I hope you are well and happy. I have been very busy lately, but I have managed to find some time to write to you. I have been thinking of you very much lately, and wondering how you are getting on. I hope you are well and happy. I have been very busy lately, but I have managed to find some time to write to you.

in milk that says it was reported that Independence was granted to the Colonys and that a packet had arrived at New York about the first instant of which nothing had as yet transpired; and that there was no other material news, except that Willet was returned from the Oswego Expedition with the loss of most of his men, injured by the frost, and had been obliged to leave upwards of 70 on his march back which we supposed to be captured by our troops.

As Wees knows nothing more it may be unnecessary to go to the expense of sending him to Quebec, I shall therefore only detain him till the next post, and if not then required shall dismiss him and pay him, which will be about seven or eight pounds. I don't like the complexion of the news--I fear it will be a more melancholy doom ever experienced by a country. I shudder at the approaching confirmation of evil, nothing of this shall transpire from me, but I am told a paper is handed about here that contains the king's speech, which is said to be brought by a Mr. Wright and a Mr. Savage.

March 17, 1783

A. Cuyler

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What has been given so far is a short outline of the beginnings of the de Wees family in Canada. The facts given are of general interest to all members of the family.

As the family divides, the particular details of course lose general interest. There are still many, personal and very human, which will perhaps carry value to most of the family.

The dividing of the family is an interesting matter, and one which needs more careful study than the present writer has had time to give. We have to be concerned, as has been mentioned, with three lines; that of John Senior; John Junior; and David.

The line of John Senior stems from Lot 89, Ameliasburgh, and was carried down directly through his son Henry, who stayed on that property.

As for John Junior, it will be remembered that in the original land grant, two plots of land were named; Lots 89-90 Ameliasburgh, and another plot of 265 acres in the county of Northumberland. It is suggested here that John, Junior, took up the land in Northumberland. Old stories say that "John went to Stirling" and Stirling is in Rawdon township in the county of Northumberland. The Atlas of 1878 says "Amongst the pioneers of Rawdon, descendants of the U.E. Loyalists and others, we find the names of Chad, Weese, Weaver, Hogle, Frelick...and others."

In 1953 there are no Weeses living in or near Stirling. In the churchyard there are three Weese stones; that of William, buried in 1881; Catherine, his daughter, died in 1867 at the age of 25, and Thomas, died in 1899. It would seem that the family there was never large, or that members of it moved back to the original home base, where the congruence is very large.

When we come to the history of Ameliasburgh it is practically solid with Weeses. There is an old story that at one time, along the road from the Carrying Place to Belleville, there was no one living who was not either born a Wees or married to one; and as one traces down the Family Tree, the truth of the statement is obvious. The map shows the land to be owned by people named Bonta, Williamson, Peck, Dempsey, Babcock, Sager, and many others, all of whom from earliest settlement have intermarried with the Wees (or Weese, as it is spelled in that locality) family. Lot 89-90 lies very near the postoffice of ALBURY, which is on lot 93, four miles north of the Carrying Place, ten miles south of Belleville. For many years the Weese house, the first in the settlement and the home of John Wees senior and his large family, was a stopping place for everyone; and its door was always open to the wayfarer. Many weddings were held there, many baptism ceremonies, many funerals were held from the house of old John Wees.

As we know, the County Atlases, produced in 1878, are not always accurate as to exact detail. But when we find from other sources that the picture they give is largely correct, it may be safe to quote them. In the early history of Prince Edward County we find the following:

"Champlain...this French adventurer, was, at this early day (1615-1616, when he spent the winter on the Prince Edward Peninsula) the discoverer of Bay Quinte and Lake Ontario, and the first of his race who set foot upon the soil which divided the two."

"Subsequently it was no doubt frequently traversed by the French Jesuits and fur traders; but it was not until 1784 that the first permanent settlement was made by Mr. Weese (as we know him, John de Wees) on the north shore of Ameliasburgh."

Further extracts from the Atlas: (n.b. to future historians-- certain inaccuracies have been deleted)

"Without doubt the honor of having first settled in the County of Prince Edward is due to John Weese, an American Colonist.....who espoused the Royal Cause, served two terms in the British Army during the Revolutionary War, and finally left the country and settled with his family on Lot 89, first concession, in the autumn of 1783, and there remained till his death at a ripe old age.

"Mr. Weese was the father of a large family and the ancestor of a numerous progeny."

"We have heard from that proverbially correct and indisputable source, the oldest inhabitant, that the courtship and marriage of the early pioneers was conducted in a manner more sociable than would accord with the present ideas of propriety in our aristocratic church circles of today. This rather loose (as we would now call them) notion of these matters is sufficiently indicated by the remark of a highly esteemed gentleman of the olden time, to the effect that 'time was too valuable to make a fuss about those matters.' Truth to say, there was sufficient cause for this state of affairs in the fact that for many years, and as late as 1814, there only existed in Upper Canada five magistrates who were authorized to perform the marriage ceremony--besides the clergymen of the Church of England, who were very, very scarce in those days. The consequence of all this was that many so-called marriages were somewhat irregular, and to remedy this awkward state of affairs, and straighten the crookedness in this most important business, special Acts of Parliament were passed from time to time."

"Very many from Sophiasburg and other parts of the county, as well as Ameliasburgh, were wont to take themselves to the Carrying Place to have this ceremony performed. On the way thither, the hospitality of Mr. Weese made his home an open house

The first part of the paper is devoted to a general survey of the subject, and to a consideration of the various theories which have been advanced to explain the origin of the human race. The second part is devoted to a detailed examination of the evidence in support of the theory of evolution, and to a consideration of the objections which have been raised to this theory.

It is not possible to do justice to the subject in a single paper, and it is therefore necessary to limit the scope of the present paper to a consideration of the evidence in support of the theory of evolution, and to a consideration of the objections which have been raised to this theory. The evidence in support of the theory of evolution is of a very extensive and varied character, and it is not possible to do justice to it in a single paper. It is therefore necessary to limit the scope of the present paper to a consideration of the evidence in support of the theory of evolution, and to a consideration of the objections which have been raised to this theory.

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for all parties going to and fro, who always went on foot, and were often obliged by distance to remain over night on the road."

"Mr. Weese's daughter Catherine and David Sager were the first couple married. Elder Winer, a Baptist minister, residing at the Carrying Place, performed the ceremony, receiving therefore one York shilling, which was the usual fee for performing this interesting ceremony."

It will be obvious to the student of genealogy that this lapse of time between the fact of marriage and the legalising of it, with the consequent frequent birth of children in the interim and the absence of any church or legal recording, makes it very difficult to discover with certainty many relationships. However, many informal family records were kept; and it would seem that the marriage ceremony might have been carried out even without legal or church sanction, with a father or older relative reading the service and proper witnesses; we have records of such witnesses even when we know that no properly authorized person could have yet reached the territory.

It is certain that the Atlas is incorrect in giving the settlement of John Weese the date of 1783. Insufficient work has been put on the matter, but the facts seem to be these: John Weese was granted 600 acres of land in Murray's Town, District of Hesse. But of these 600 acres, it appears that

200 had already been granted to the Honorable Richard Cartwright, so on September 6, 1787 we find Henry Weese, John's son, asking for 200 further acres in lieu of these incorrectly granted his father; and at this time the new land was granted near Ameliasburgh. So the date of settlement at Albury should be autumn of 1787, and not 1783 as the Atlas claims (which would have been utterly impossible, since the Weese family was still at Lachine in 1783.)

Now we can give a fair list of John Weese's children.

- David: married Catherine Rogers, 1793
- John: married Jane Campbell, October 7, 1784 (Was she his second wife? Who married them? Winer didn't turn up until 1794.) *P. 21*
- Peter: married Laura Bonta (name now incorrectly spelled Bonter.)
- Ann Gerany: married John Rogers, January 17, 1797
- Catherine: married David Sager, probably 1794.
- Nancy: married Joseph Rogers, March 22, 1804.
- William: married Mary Barnhardt.
- Henry: married Phoebe Angle. (This name is properly Engel, or Engle; Phoebe's father was one of the Hessians who had fought with the K.R.R. and perhaps this is the source of the legend that the Weese family was German. This is the only German strain unless other Hessians intermarried. There were only 29 Hessians altogether, men, women and children, settled with the K.R.R.)

John Weese's children (cont.)Elizabeth: married Joseph Rogers as second wife.Lucy: married Peter BurleyMary: married Elijah Hough

The writer has a great deal more information as to all these children and their descendants, which could be made available to students searching out these lines. But since it is David's line which is of primary concern to this study, perhaps these notes will suffice for the moment. The line of Henry and Phoebe is available in great detail, and this since Henry's direct descendant is still living on the original Lot 89 of Ameliasburgh.

We do not yet know the exact location of David's original grant of land. Descendants say that the property mentioned in the 1878 Atlas, owned at that time by J. B. Wees, on concession 6 near Centreville, is not the original. But David himself is buried in Centreville Churchyard, and with him his wife Catherine.

Their tombstone inscriptions:

In memory of DAVID WEES, who died July 1, 1854,
aged 83 years:

"A husband, father, brother dear
A friend most kind now slumbers here.
Tho' he to death in action fell,
Has gone with angels now to dwell."

And In memory of CATHERINE, wife of David Wees, who
died August 16, 1851, aged 83 years.

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CHICAGO, ILL. 60637

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The following is a list of the names of the persons who have been elected to the office of the President of the University of Chicago for the year 1967-1968. The names are listed in alphabetical order of their last names. The names of the persons who have been elected to the office of the President of the University of Chicago for the year 1967-1968 are: [illegible text]

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We see that David was born in 1771, and Catherine in 1768.

DAVID AND CATHERINE had many children:

Annie: born August 1795, died May, 1872, married James Williams.

David Robert: born June 1810, died November 1873, married Janet Lochhead.

Ira and Ezra: twins, born April 30,

Ira: died July 25, 1884, married Eva Hibbard (Hilbert) 8 Oct 1838

Ezra: married Beulah Cooley

Samuel: married Miss Sweet

Peter: married Polly Cooley

Mary: married three times, Guss, Thompson, Yerex

Nancy: married Thompson

Peggy: married Close

Hannah: married Thompson

Susannah: no record.

Ezra's and Peter's wives were half-sisters, that is, Beulah and Polly Cooley.

It is the line of EZRA AND BEULAH which we carry down:

William

Milton: married Eliza Augusta Evans

David

Margaret

Martha

Catherine

1590

19-04294Z

And now, MILTON AND ELIZA (Evans)

William

Clara

Minnie

Florence

Milton Frederick: born July 28, 1874, married Josephine Rusk,
born January 15, 1873.

Mabel

Next, FREDERICK MILTON AND JOSEPHINE (Rusk)

Wilfred: born 1899, married Frances Johnson, born 1902

Freda Marguerite: born July 22, 1901, married Ivon Ross Beare,
born June 18, 1896

son: Kenneth Wilfred Henri, born 1940

Elive Gertrude: born 1904, married Russell Gregg Bisnett

son: Fredric Russel, born 1939

Finally, carrying the name WILFRED AND FRANCES (Johnson)

Margarita: born 1925

Timothy John: born 1944

We do not know the exact year that Ezra and Beulah left the family home near Centreville. The story, remembered by grandson Fred, is that Ezra with his older boys went on ahead to Stratford, or some place near it, made a clearing and then

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went back for his family which he brought in by ox-cart. Since he was born in 1812, probably married about 1832, he may have gone to Stratford about fifteen years later, say 1847. This was very early indeed in the history of that territory, and means that the Weeses were among the very first settlers. Land records are now being searched; there are no records in Stratford earlier than 1853, and the most careful search shows no Wees transactions at that time. In 1874 Milton Wees bought a piece of land in the town of Stratford, but as yet no record can be found of Ezra's holdings, either at the time of buying or of selling.

Milton Wees ran a grocery and fish business on what is now Downie Street in Stratford, from 1873 until 1884. At that time he sold the business and went to Sarnia, where with his father, uncle and brothers he engaged in commercial fishing.

His son Frederick Milton was born in Stratford in 1874. He became a minister of the Free Methodist Church and was a preacher in the very early days of the Western Prairies. There, in and around Moose Jaw, he and his wife Josephine Rusk from Bracebridge, brought up their three children.

It may well be said of this Wees, descendant of original John, that he was and is 'a good man'; a 'good neighbour' and

that 'his word may be relied on'. 'Trustworthy, honorable, and kind' are words applied again and again to the men of the Wees line all down from the beginning. They have been born out to the letter and the spirit by Frederick Milton, son of Milton, son of Ezra, son of David, son of John.

Faint, illegible handwriting is visible below the dashed line.

H. E. Burleigh Papers

Dec. 1904

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